

Message Text

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SUBJ: YACE SPEECH AT OPENING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

BEGIN SUMMARY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PHILIPPE YACE CONCENTRATED ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS DURING HIS SPEECH OPENING THE 1977 PARLIAMENTARY SESSION. YACE REFERRED TO THE PERIL OF OUTSIDE INFLUENCES THREATENING AFRICA AND DECRIED THE "HESITANT AND DILATORY" ATTITUDE OF THE WEST. HE PRAISED FRANCE HOWEVER FOR ITS COURAGE IN AIDING ZAIRE. ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, YACE DEPLORED THE SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS OF THE GREAT POWERS IN NOT BEING MORE FORTHCOMING IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND OTHER ECONOMIC FORA SAYING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORE JUST WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER IS ESSENTIAL TO AVOID DISASTER. ON THE INTERNAL FRONT YACE SAID IVORY COAST REMAINED TRUE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DIALOGUE AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAVE MADE THE COUNTRY AN ISLAND OF PEACE IN A TROUBLED CONTINENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF IVORY COAST WHICH CALLS FOR THE YEAR'S FIRST SESSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO BE OPENED THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF UNCLASSIFIED

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APRIL, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PHILIPPE YACE PRESIDED OVER THE CEREMONIAL OPENING APRIL 27. IN ATTENDANCE IN ADDITION TO THE 120 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WERE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

2. IN HIS OPENING SPEECH YACE NOTED THAT THE INTER-

NATIONAL CLIMATE HAD DETERIORATED SINCE LAST YEAR CITING THE "CONTROVERSY" BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER POWERS OVER HUMAN RIGHTS, THE "FAILURE" OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, AND ARMED CONFLICT ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.

3. YACE WARNED OF THE IMMINENT DANGER OF A CONFRONTATION OF TWO ANTAGONISTIC BLOCS IN AFRICA. HE RECALLED THE "CRY OF ALARM" WHICH PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY HAD ISSUED A YEAR AGO WARNING THE WEST TO "WAKE UP WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME" AND NOT TO BE DECEIVED BY WORDS SUCH AS DETENTE. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS HAVE "ALAS" PROVED THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS PROPHETIC, SAID YACE, AS "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES HAVE GONE ON THE OFFENSIVE. BEFORE THE GROWING PERIL THE "FREE WORLD" REMAINS LOCKED IN ITS CUSTOMARY IMMOBILITY. A GLIMMER OF HOPE WAS THE "COURAGEOUS AND HISTORIC" DECISION OF FRANCE TO AID ZAIRE WHOSE NATIONAL UNITY WAS THREATENED. YACE CALLED FOR THE "MODERATES" OF THE WORLD TO REACT BEFORE THE THREAT OF THE PERNICIOUS INFILTRATION OF FOREIGN INFLUENCES IN AFRICA.

4. YACE ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE WEST HAD HISTORICALLY DEMONSTRATED A CERTAIN INDIFFERENCE TO RACISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, EVEN FURNISHING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO RACIST REGIMES, WHICH LED LIBERATION FIGHTERS IN EXASPERATION TO ALLY THEMSELVES WITH THE DEVIL IF NECESSARY TO AID THEIR STRUGGLE.

5. ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, YACE SAID EUROPE AND THE USA
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HAD NEVER CONCEIVED A TRULY LASTING POLICY TOWARD AFRICA. HE NOTED THE CONTINUING DETERIORATION OF THE TERMS OF EXCHANGE AND CALLED ON THE GREAT POWERS TO NEGOTIATE A MORE JUST WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER, IN THEIR OWN LONG-TERM INTEREST AND AS ESSENTIAL TO THE PEACE AND SURVIVAL OF MANKIND. HE URGED THE RICH NATIONS TO OPEN A SERIOUS DIALOGUE WITH THE POOR NATIONS ON ISSUES SUCH AS A COMMON FUND FOR RAW MATERIALS.

6. ON NATIONAL POLICY, YACE SAID IVORY COAST REMAINED FIRMLY ATTACHED TO DIALOGUE AS THE MEANS OF RESOLVING DISPUTES AND SEARCHING FOR PEACE WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO ANY DEVELOPMENT. IVORY COAST WOULD CONTINUE TO PROMOTE DIVERSIFICATION OF ITS ECONOMY AND BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AS FUNDAMENTAL PRIORITIES. HE NOTED THAT IVORY COAST HAD BECOME KNOWN AS AN ISLAND OF PEACE AND URGED THE NATION TO REMAIN UNITED BEHIND THE PARTY THAT THIS MIGHT REMAIN SO. IN CLOSING HE URGED HIS FELLOW CITIZENS TO

RESIST ANY TEMPTATION TO CORRUPTION AND ALWAYS TO
PUT THE NATIONAL INTEREST FIRST.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IN LARGE PART A REAFFIRMATION
OF IVORY COAST'S BASIC POLICIES AND THE NATION'S
DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE THEM, THE SPEECH OF YACE
(WHO IS CONSTITUTIONAL SUCCESSOR TO PRESIDENT
HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY) ALSO SERVES TO UNDERLINE THE GOIC'S
TWO MOST SERIOUS PREOCCUPATIONS AT THE MOMENT: THE
SOVIET-CUBAN ADVANCE IN AFRICA AND WHAT IVORIANS
PERCEIVE AS THE WEST'S FAILURE TO REACT; AND CONCERN
OVER WHAT IT IS VIEWED AS THE WEST'S INTRANSIGENCE ON
THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. END COMMENT.
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